

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, SAN DIEGO REGION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND CEQA SCOPING MEETING FOR THE
CHOLLAS CREEK TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR METALS**

**March 21, 2003 2:00 p.m.
Regional Board Office Hearing Room
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego California 92123-4340**

PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND CEQA SCOPING MEETING

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) will hold a combined public workshop and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting on the Chollas Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for metals (cadmium, copper, lead and zinc).

Date: Friday, March 21, 2003 Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Regional Board Office – Board Room
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

Two or more Regional Board members may attend this meeting. However, no voting will occur.

Purpose of the Public Workshop: To provide an update, answer questions and receive input from the public on the Chollas Creek TMDL for metals. Public participation is an important part of the TMDL process and is encouraged.

Purpose of the CEQA Scoping Meeting: To receive comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the “functionally equivalent” documents prepared pursuant to CEQA Section 21080.5 of the California Public Resources Code.

BACKGROUND

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) requires States to develop a list of waterbodies which do not, or are not expected to, meet water quality standards after implementing technology-based controls. The CWA Section 303(d) requires States to identify these impaired waters and develop TMDLs for such waters. The purpose of a TMDL is to restore the waterbody’s beneficial uses and attain water quality objectives.

Chollas Creek is an urban creek with highly variable flows. Much of the Creek has been channelized and concrete lined, but some sections of earthen creek bed remain. The Creek originates in the Cities of Lemon Grove and La Mesa. It flows approximately 15 miles downstream, through the City of San Diego, and empties on the eastern shoreline of the central portion of San Diego Bay. Urban runoff enters the Creek throughout its course and is believed to be the main cause of the observed conditions as described below.

Since 1994, Chollas Creek storm water samples have frequently exceeded the Basin Plan narrative water quality objective for toxicity. These same samples have also exceeded both chronic and acute water quality criteria for metals established in the California Toxics Rule. Specifically, during the period 1994 –

2001, concentrations of copper and zinc during storm events have frequently exceeded both acute and chronic criteria. During this same period, concentrations of cadmium and lead have frequently exceeded chronic and periodically exceeded acute criteria. These conditions resulted in the Creek being placed on the CWA Section 303(d) list in 1996 for toxicity, cadmium, copper, lead and zinc.

Subsequent Toxicity Identification Evaluations (TIEs) revealed the observed toxicity to be caused primarily by zinc and to a lesser extent by copper. The household pesticide Diazinon was also identified as a cause of toxicity and is currently being addressed by a separate TMDL that was adopted by the Regional Board in August 2002.

This TMDL is being developed to address the toxicity caused by metals to aquatic life in Chollas Creek. It is being designed to meet water quality objectives and protect beneficial uses.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

To obtain current information on the TMDL contact us by:

U.S. mail: Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, 9174 Sky Park Court Suite 100, San Diego, California 92123-4340.

Email: pardl@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov
 jsmith@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov

Telephone: Ms. Linda Pardy at (858) 627-3932 or
 Mr. Jimmy Smith at (858) 467-2732

Website: www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9.

The documents can also be reviewed by appointment at the Regional Board office at the above address.

INFORMATION

Parking is available at the workshop location. A map with directions to the workshop may be obtained from the Regional Board’s website or by contacting Ms. Lori Costa at the phone number below.

The workshop room facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Lori Costa at (858) 467-2357 at least 5 working days prior to March 21, 2003. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

_____/s/_____

John H. Robertus

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: February 14, 2003

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